

115
12847

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

#BXNFMXY *****CAR-RT LOT**0037
#0000 2911 0285#
005 DTN
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC 5905 PI
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

NOV 15 2004

ED SINCE 1877
OBER 28, 2004
VOL. 128
No. 42

**Be on time for
Sunday School!**



**Daylight Savings Time
ends at 2 a.m. on
Sunday, October 31.**

Turn clocks back one hour
before going to bed
on October 30.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Directions

Just for the Record

Sunday School Lessons

SBC president wraps up national tour

WAIKOLOA, Hawaii (BP and local reports) — In reaching Hawaii, Southern Baptist Convention President (SBC) Bobby Welch successfully visited Southern Baptists in all 50 states and Canada in just 25 days of travel.

Hawaii Baptists from all around the city of Kona welcomed the longtime pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., and celebrated his arrival Oct. 7 by placing a purple and white lei around his neck in the traditional Hawaiian manner.

Waikoloa Church was the last stop on the last day of the unprecedented Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism tour to encourage Southern Baptists to "Witness, Win and Baptize... One Million!" in one year.

Welch made a stop in Mississippi on the morning of September 9, at the new Northpark Campus of Colonial Heights Church in Ridgeland. The church's main campus is on Old Canton Road in Jackson.

"We can routinely baptize one million people each year, and we should," Welch said during his Mississippi stop.

Quoting from the brochure handed out to participants at the Mississippi rally, Welch explained that The Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge consists of six points that Southern Baptists should pledge to accomplish:

- Train and equip themselves and others.
- Witness and win others to Christ.
- Help others understand the importance of believer's baptism.
- Apply biblical teachings of stewardship.
- Become personally involved in Vacation Bible School to reach children and their parents.
- Start new Sunday School classes and new churches.

"I believe his message was very timely because Southern Baptists have not seen any significant increase in baptisms the past four or five years. I do believe that if everyone who claims to be a Christian makes the effort in some way to share their faith, we would see a tremendous increase in people being reached for Christ," said Colonial Heights Church Pastor Mark Anderson.

Back in Hawaii, Welch stood before his audience and brought the same message he has now delivered literally all over North America. "Instead of going off in all different directions," Welch exhorted, "let's all pull together as one and make a real impact on this country."

Baptists in the 50th state were ready to do their part. Pastor Emerson Wiles divided up the group into visitation teams of two or three people. Wiles gave them survey forms, instructions, and maps of assigned streets in the neighborhood surrounding the church. Welch took an assignment and went out with Bob Duffer, director of missions for the Neighbor Islands Association.

Welch and Duffer knocked on the door of a nice home at the end of a cul-de-sac. A young mother answered the door. Welch established a nearly instant



WELCOME TO MISSISSIPPI — Colonial Heights Church Pastor Mark Anderson (right) greets Southern Baptist Convention Bobby Welch on September 9 at the church's new Northpark Campus in Ridgeland. Welch chose the church as the rally point for the Mississippi stop of his Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism bus tour of the United States. As part of the campaign, Welch is asking Southern Baptists to join him in baptizing one million new believers between June 2005 and June 2006. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

rapport with the young mother who was holding her infant son. A two-year-old daughter peeked out at the visitors from behind the young mother's legs.

The young woman's husband worked at the Hilton resort nearby, and the family had been living in Hawaii for three years after being transferred from Guam.

"I was raised in Guam as a Catholic," the young lady said. "When I was a teenager, I accepted Jesus as my Savior and began attending a nondenominational church in Guam. But, I am embarrassed to say that we have kind of slipped out of going to any church since we moved here."

Welch encouraged her and explained how the Baptist church just down the road had a dynamic new pastor, children's programs and young couples like her. "Women's Bible studies might interest me," the young lady told Welch.

"Let us have your telephone number and I will give it to Pastor Wiles' wife," Welch said. "She will give you a call and let you know more about Waikoloa Baptist Church." Appreciatively, the young woman jotted her telephone number down on a piece of paper.

Before departing Jackson later on September 9 for the Louisiana stop on his bus tour, Welch led 15 teams on a door-to-door witnessing campaign in the neighborhoods around the new Colonial Heights Church facility. Two professions of faith were recorded, along with the discovery of a number of prospects for the church.

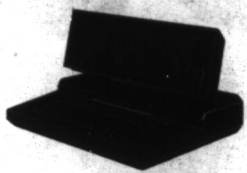
"I have done the same thing in all 50

states and Canada, and my experiences have confirmed suspicions I have had for 30 years. Critics have told me, 'Door-to-door visitation or street witnessing will not work in this part of the country or that part of the country. It's too confrontational. It's too intrusive,' but you know what? Every one of the people I have spoken to on this trip have reacted almost the same way. People all over this country are open to a winsome presentation of the Gospel."

"If you show kindness, genuine care, naturalness, and don't get all worked up when you talk to them, people everywhere will listen to you. There is a difference between being intentional and being confrontational. I am not confrontational. I am not talking to people to work out the problems with their theology, even though that will be important on down the line. I am intentionally sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is nothing wrong with that in most people's eyes."

Welch is praying that more messengers than ever will make the sacrifice to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville next June to launch a year-long effort to witness, win and baptize one million people between June 2005 and June 2006. The Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge will kick off in June 2005 at the SBC annual meeting in Nashville. Welch urged everyone to make the effort to attend the annual meeting and participate in the Crossover Door-to-Door Evangelism Rally at 10 a.m. on June 18 in the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony Martin

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE

Anne Ranson

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Lennie N. Young

ADVERTISING

Dana Richardson

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Brenda Quattlebaum

BOOKKEEPER

Betty Anne Bailey

EDITOR EMERITUS

Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster: Send changes of address to **THE BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send news, communication, and address changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601) 968-3800. Fax: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 128 NUMBER 42
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

Defining marriage in Mississippi

Every election cycle these days brings the dire warning from someone or some group that it is "the most important election in the history of the Republic," or some wording to that effect. As voters responsible for our own destiny we should think of each election in that manner, including next Tuesday's.

The next President of the United States will make some of the most important decisions any President has ever faced. He must decide how to prosecute the war on terror, described in some circles as World War III. The next President may also have the task of appointing two, three, or possibly four new justices to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Likewise, the people we elect next Tuesday to the U.S. Congress will play a crucial role in the future direction of the country, from tackling the federal budget deficit to vetting those Supreme Court nominees. We should consider the candidates very carefully.

Another issue looms in the upcoming election that should be as important to us as these major national issues, and thus as equally deserving of our attention.

The Mississippi electorate will have the opportunity to vote on an amendment to the state's Constitution that, if approved by voters, will limit the definition of marriage in Mississippi as valid only between a man and a woman. Constitutional Amendment No. 1 on the ballot will also mandate that same-sex marriages from other locales not be recognized in Mississippi. The exact wording of the amendment is as follows:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AMENDMENT NO. 1 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56

This proposed constitutional amendment provides that marriage may take place and may be valid under the laws of this state only between a man and a woman. The amendment also pro-

vides that a marriage in another state or foreign jurisdiction between persons of the same gender may not be recognized in this state and is void and unenforceable under the laws of this state.

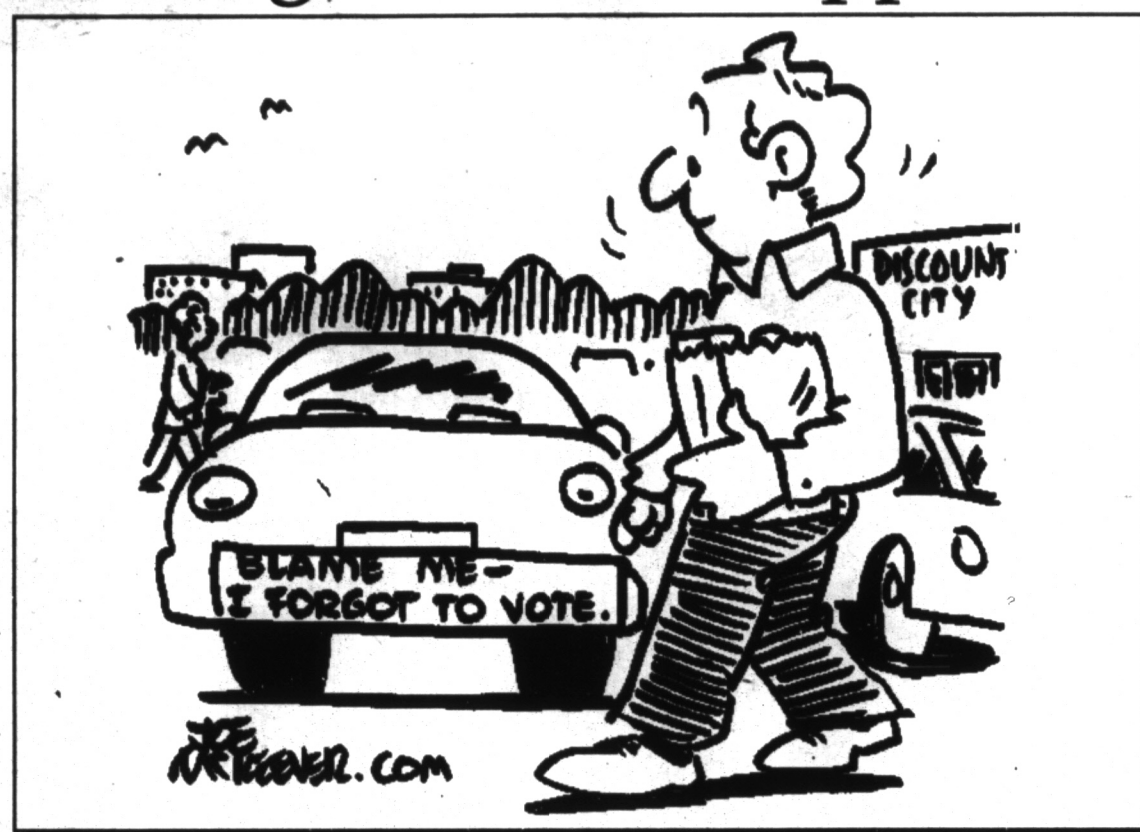
Amendment No. 1 is the only constitutional amendment listed on next Tuesday's ballot. In other states that have already voted on constitutional amendments with similar wording, the proposal has passed with an overwhelming majority. Courts in some of those states, however, have struck down the will of the people.

It seems odd that we are even discussing such an issue. For Christians, the Bible makes it clear that God created Man and Woman, and then joined them together for a lifetime. The Bible also makes it clear that God does not approve of any variance from His divine plan for men and women.

It should be pointed out that homosexuality is only one of the many sins listed in Romans 1 and many other places in the Bible, for which individuals will one day be answerable to God. It is by no means the only wickedness that falls into that category, but its inclusion is unmistakable. We should therefore avoid legalizing homosexuality — or any other sin — that God finds so abominable.

This constitutional amendment provides us with an opportunity to be heard on this controversial issue. As in every other aspect of his/her life, the Christian is called upon to seek the Lord's guidance and wisdom in all we say or do. May we all do so in this election, and in every other election held in our great country.

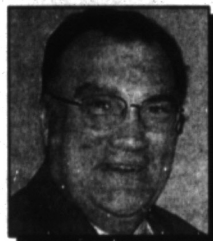
Pray, be still and listen for the Lord's direction, and then go vote. That's the only way we will be taken seriously by those we elect.



The nation's attention is currently focused on the Presidential Debates. As in most debates there is both agreement and disagreement. The agreement in our current debate seems to be centered on the need to defeat worldwide terrorism. The disagreement focuses on who is better qualified to lead the war. Senator Kerry suggests that President Bush doesn't have the brains to do it, while President Bush suggests that Senator Kerry doesn't have the spine to do it. I'm sure that's an oversimplification of the issues on my part, but it offers us a backdrop for discussing Baptist involvement in building the Kingdom of God.

Everyone agrees that Baptists have a role in establishing the Kingdom of God, but exactly how to accomplish the task is up for debate. In June the Southern Baptist Convention launched an emphasis called the Acts 1:8 Challenge. If we take Jesus at His word, then Acts 1:8 becomes definitive in our kingdom response. "...And you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall become my witness in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth." This final commis-

GUEST OPINION:



The power of the Holy Spirit

By David Michel

Associate Executive Director
Miss. Baptist Convention Board

sioning statement from Jesus is so clear it allows no room for debate. So why haven't we, or the generations of believers who preceded us, been able to bring in the Kingdom yet? Obviously the final consummation of the Kingdom rests in God's hands, not ours, and we anticipate with hope the glorious return of Christ. Until that day, we debate the best strategies for obedience to our Lord's commission, and we encourage one another with sermons and thematic emphases like the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

Southern Baptists stand on the threshold of a new era in mission responsiveness. Many are saying that Acts 1:8 is the 21st Century replacement for Bold Mission Thrust, an emphasis which guided the last twenty-five years of the 1900's. If we

take seriously the Acts 1:8 Challenge it could revolutionize the way Baptists do missions. We have been operating in a representative system, where career missionaries served the larger body of believers as gospel specialists. Acts 1:8 challenges all believers to become participative missionaries in their local communities and through strategic partnerships to witness to the whole world. The goal of Bold Mission Thrust was to send 10,000 missionaries. The goal of Acts 1:8 is to send 15,000,000. Imagine the impact on the world if Southern Baptists take this emphasis seriously.

The debate in Mississippi Baptist conversations centers on how to bring about an Acts 1:8 renovation among our churches. Anyone who is listening

should be overwhelmed by the size of the task, and convicted by the need to be enlightened and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We cannot bring about this renovation without an intensified collaboration with Christ. As a denominational missions leader my first temptation is to design a promotional and educational approach for mobilizing 750,000 Mississippi Baptist Missionaries — but Acts 1:8 insists instead that I call our constituency to pray for the Holy Spirit to mobilize our people as witnesses to the uttermost ends of the earth.

In that light, October marks the beginning of a season of prayer for an Acts 1:8 Renovation of congregations and believers across our state. Pastors will begin to receive an Acts 1:8 prayer guide with suggestions for leading a monthly prayer service. Congregations should devote one Wednesday or Sunday night per month to pray for an Acts 1:8 revival across our state. If you believe we stand in need of spiritual renewal and missional renovation, then I ask you to participate in this season of prayer. Call on the Holy Spirit for first century power with 21st Century impact.

Trustees still wary of sole membership

NEW ORLEANS (BP and ABP) — Trustees of New Orleans Seminary (NOBS) approved two motions concerning sole membership during their Oct. 13 meeting. The actions fall short of the request made by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) messengers in June 2004 that the seminary adopt sole membership at their "October, 2004, meeting" by amending the seminary's charter, but the language indicates that sole membership will be adopted and that seminary President Chuck Kelley will restate polity and legal concerns to messengers attending the 2005 annual meeting in Nashville.

Sole membership is a legal mechanism that allows a parent organization to establish its ownership (as sole member of the corporation) of a subordinate entity while setting limitations to the parent entity's control, thereby limiting the legal liability of the parent for the subsidiary. Simply put, it seeks to clarify in legal language that the convention owns all of its entities.

The other five SBC seminaries — Golden Gate, Midwestern, Southeastern, Southern, and Southwestern — previously have adopted sole membership, as have the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and Guidestone Financial Resources (formerly the Annuity Board).

New Orleans Seminary representatives have held out, saying they support the convention but believe that sole membership violates Baptist polity and also is incompatible with Louisiana law. Acting in private during an

executive session that lasted one hour and 20 minutes on Oct. 13, the seminary's trustees approved by a vote of 35-1 a motion that reads:

"The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Board of Trustees move[s] to propose to the Southern Baptist Convention the amendment to our charter requested by the convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2004 regarding sole membership, as outlined by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, with the attached reservations regarding legal and polity concerns and possible minor language adjustments to which the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention would agree. We further move that the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President explain the reservations to convention messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tennessee in 2005."

The trustees then unanimously approved a second motion that reads:

"That the reservations regarding the legal and polity concerns be referred to the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Executive Committee and to the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's legal counsel for further review with the final document being presented to the full Board before the April 2005 meeting."

Seminary leaders and trustees are convinced the sole membership model is flawed in regard to use in Louisiana, said seminary President Chuck Kelley. In light of that,

the seminary opted to fulfill the request of the convention — while stating the reservations that are present — and allow messengers to the 2005 annual meeting to decide the issue, he explained.

Kelley indicated the seminary will release its concerns in written form well before the annual meeting next June. "We're going to express our concerns with our report (to the 2005 convention), ...It won't be lengthy. It won't be controversial. It won't be hostile. We're just going to say, 'If this is what you want, it's all ready for you to do and will be filed immediately with the state. But before you take your final vote, please be aware we have these concerns.'"

The seminary leader also said the process between the Executive Committee and the seminary has been disappointing. "Our biggest disappointment in this process is that the Executive Committee has not allowed its own trustees to consider any alternative way to accomplish this, nor have they allowed the messengers of the SBC to consider an alternative way to accomplish this," he said.

Kelley voiced regret that messengers largely received only one side of the story at the 2004 convention. "I believe completely that the (convention) messengers make the final decision," he said, "but I do not think the messengers were well served at the 2004 convention because they were only told one side of the story. ... We just wish they had been better informed."

Kelley again expressed his polity concerns that the sole membership change eventually could lead to an unhealthy consolidation of power by the Executive Committee over the convention agencies. He said that fear has been fed by the way the process has been handled with the seminary.

Morris Chapman, a Mississippi native and president of the SBC Executive Committee, disagreed with Kelley's assessment of events, indicating New Orleans Seminary had been given opportunity to make its case

both to the Executive Committee and to messengers at the annual meeting.

"Over the last year, Dr. Kelley was invited to address the Executive Committee in a plenary session and he spoke at length to its members," said Chapman. "Last summer he was invited to state his opinions to the messengers attending the 2004 Southern Baptist Convention during the Executive Committee's own report time and in fact, was given the last word."

"Dr. Kelley publicly has given his opinions multiple times," he continued. "I'm thankful his trustees have indicated they will adopt sole membership and I look forward to moving ahead on this matter as well as working together to advance our Southern Baptist witness."

THE BAPTIST RECORD

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 28, 2004

VOL. 128

No. 42

Supremes to hear cases

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court announced Oct. 12 it would review lower court rulings involving displays of the Ten Commandments on government property in Kentucky and Texas. Review of the decisions was granted separately, and oral arguments in the cases are expected to be heard in February, possibly on the same day. It marked the first time the justices have agreed to such a case since 1980, when they ruled a Kentucky law requiring the Ten Commandments to be displayed in public school classrooms was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court's willingness to return to the issue comes at a time when district courts and appeals courts in the federal judiciary are deeply divided. Four appeals courts have ruled in favor of Ten Commandments displays, while three appeals courts have decided they are unconstitutional, according to Liberty Counsel, which litigates church-state cases. In the case out of Kentucky, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the inclusion of the Ten Commandments in a display of historical documents in two county courthouses is unconstitutional. Framed copies of the Ten Commandments were hung alone in courthouses in McCreary and Pulaski counties. After the ACLU of Kentucky challenged the displays, historical documents — eventually including the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and Magna Carta — were added. A panel of the Sixth Circuit still called for removal of the Ten Commandments from the displays in a 2-1 decision in December 2003. In the case from Texas, meanwhile, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court ruled unanimously in November 2003 that a stand-alone monument of the Ten Commandments on the state capitol grounds in Austin is constitutional. The Fraternal Order of Eagles donated and paid for the granite monument, and accepted by the Texas Legislature.

Looking back

10 years ago

Three weeks of negotiations resolve a situation that had removed Mississippi College from the hands of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. An agreement is reached that institutes a system of checks and balances designed to preserve the interests of the convention and the college trustees.

20 years ago

Like a Watered Garden, a locally-produced pageant of music, readings, drama, and slides involving 150 people, celebrates the 65-year history of Pontotoc Association from its 1919 founding through today.

50 years ago

Want a good place to eat? Then go to the New Orleans Seminary's cafeteria, the Baptist Record observes. The cafeteria is "one of the nation's ten best," according to Institutions Magazine.

SUFFER IN SILENCE

A few weeks ago our latest grandchild to play soccer received his uniform, his game schedule, his practice schedule, and a page of instructions to the parents on how to conduct themselves at the games. It was a full page on what they could and could not do or in some cases what they should or should not do. It was a good piece of information.

One of the things that caught my eye had to do with actions: "If you do not agree with a decision that was made either by the referees or the coach, don't make a big scene and be yelling and screaming at them and questioning the decision. Just let the kids play and you suffer in silence." That is a tall order for most folks for a number of reasons. One, we saw the decision that was made and we know better and so we feel obligated to put in our two cents or even 10 cents worth of athletic expertise. Probably the biggest thing that causes us not to suffer in silence is that we do not have the discipline to keep our mouths shut and do not recognize the ultimate damaging impact that it can have on a kid's life. The parents who feel like they have every right and feel that they have a responsibility to vocalize their opinion and tell the coaches or the refs what they ought to do and how they ought to do it and display



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

anger and arrogance while they bellyache and belittle the people who are supposed to be in charge do not realize that they are not only teaching their children how to be bad sports, they are mentoring their own kids about life's worse behavior patterns. In just a few weeks or months time an elementary school kid will not even remember whether they won or lost the game, but for a lifetime they may remember, even mimic the display of poor attitude, on the part of some adult.

As I looked over the sheet of paper instructing the parents how to behave themselves, I had an initial thought followed by a secondary thought. My initial thought was *this is good*. I have seen too many adults act like children and even embarrass their own children and hurt the sport by their actions. It is good that somebody thought far enough ahead that they would sideline some of this bad action on the part of the parents. My follow-up thought was *this is bad*. Isn't it a sad thing that we

live in a day when the parents have to be corrected rather than the children? Whatever happened to parents who cared about the way their children act in public? Now the authorities have to focus attention on the parents so that it will not influence the children. What has happened to parents, moms and dads, who ought to care about the kind of example they are setting for their children?

The Word of God is so clearly presented in Proverbs that we are, "To train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." We must understand that it is not just about instructing the child, vocalizing what we think he or she ought to be doing, but it is much, much more than that. It is declaration reinforced by demonstration. Parents, you can make a tremendous difference in the life of your children not just insisting that they make good grades and apply themselves in extracurricular activities, but you can shape them by your own actions and attitudes.

Years ago a father came to me and he was just uncontrollably upset and angry at his son. The boy had been caught smoking marijuana. The dad was explaining how that boy knew better. He had taught him not to do that and to stay away from folks who do drugs. After the dad got his case stated to me, very calmly, but as honestly as I could I said, "Well, you probably are the one who taught him to smoke marijuana." Shocked he said, "Not me! Why would you think I taught him? I leaned over and thumped his shirt pocket where there was a pack of cigarettes and said, 'He has spent a lifetime of watching you light up one after another all day, every day. He does not realize the difference between your cigarettes and his marijuana.'"

Our children will be much better off if we leave a lot of things out of our lives including our unwanted, unneeded, and unappreciated outbursts and displays of ill temper. Wouldn't it be good if those of us who know the Lord would fill out lives with attitudes, actions, and examples that honor the Lord? That would also bless our children and make soccer games and little league more pleasant.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)
- But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

Faith, Hickory Flat: Revival October 29-31; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; Johnny Westmoreland, music; Larry West, pastor; all are invited.

Friendship, Columbus: Homecoming October 31; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served; Roy McKay, preaching; Old Timers quartet, music; John Gainer, pastor.

Calvary, Macon: Harvest Crusade Revival October 31-November 3; Sunday, 10:50 a.m. with a meal following; evening services nightly at

6:30 p.m.; David Sheppard, evangelist; Chuck Cotton, music; Greg Duncan, pastor.

Ingram, Baldwin: Revival November 7-10; Sunday, 5:30 p.m. with finger food following; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mon., youth pizza at 6 p.m.; Tues., family night soup at 6 p.m.; Wed., children's hot dogs at 6 p.m.; Marty Roberts, Wheeler, Wheeler, and Jerry Crawford, Camp Creek, Guntown, evangelists.

Philadelphia, Lincoln County: Revival October 31-November 3; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, evange-

list; Todd McDaniel, music; Eddie Myers, interim pastor.

Harrisville, Harrisville: Revival November 7-10; Sunday, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., a covered dish lunch will be served, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dennis Allen, preaching; Steve Walker, music.

High Hill, Neshoba County: Revival November 5-

7; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Tommy Anderson, evangelist; Mike Barter, music; Ray Files, pastor.

Ludlow, Scott: Homecoming Oct. 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; Jim Burns, guest speaker; M.L. Wallace, pastor; Dwight Cooper, music; Sylvia Graves, piano.

www.mbc.org

MISSISSIPPI POSITIONS

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, Goodman, Miss., is currently seeking a full-time pastor. A traditional SBC, resident membership 95. Send resumes or contact to Main Street Baptist Church, pastor search committee, Billy May, chairman, P.O. Box 206, Goodman, MS 39079.

IS MUSIC YOUR MINISTRY? Do you have a heart for youth? Immanuel Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Miss., is accepting resumes for minister of music/youth/education. Send to personnel committee chairman, Immanuel Baptist Church, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

YOUTH/CHILDREN WORKER, Florence Mississippi church is seeking a part-time youth and children's worker. Experience preferred but is not a must. Bi-vocational or college student interested should send a

resume to the following address: Gunter Road Baptist Church, attn: personnel committee, 1220 Gunter Road, Florence, MS 39073.

MALMAISON BAPTIST CHURCH, Carrollton, Miss., is currently seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resumes to Malmaison Baptist Church, pastor search committee, Ross Taylor, chairman, RT. 2 Box 95 A-3, Carrollton, MS 38917.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, COLLINS, Miss., is currently seeking a minister of music. Send resume to Salem Baptist Church, personnel committee, P.O. Box 1628, Collins, MS 39428.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, COLLINS, Miss., is currently seeking a minister of youth. Send resume to Salem Baptist Church, personnel committee, P.O. Box 1628, Collins, MS 39428.

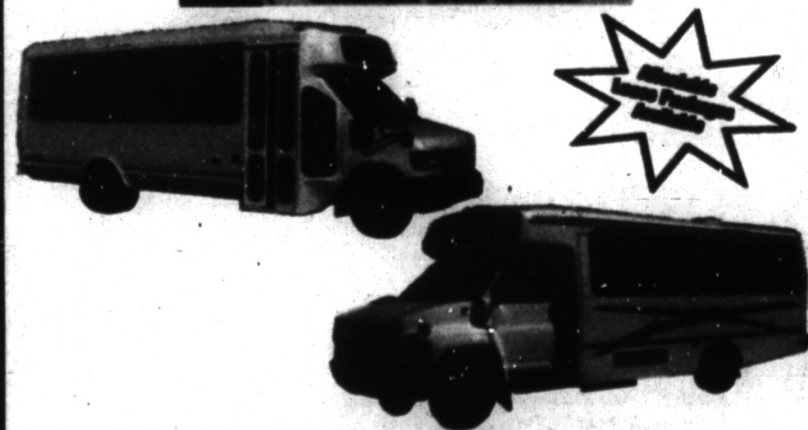
DO YOU HAVE CD'S MATURING?

TIRED OF LOW RATES?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE 7.25% 1ST YEAR? TAX DEFERRED, FREE WITHDRAWALS & 100% INSURED

FOR MORE INFO CALL
L.D. O'MIRE ASSOCIATES
AT 601-957-3841 OR
1-800-844-3254

BusGroup



Large Selection • New & Pre-Owned
Tremendous Savings • Immediate Delivery

Check out the Church Bus Section on our web site!

www.busgroup.com

Georgia Louisiana Mississippi
888.287.4768 888.726.5142 800.423.9826

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Judy Walker, music and youth director at Utica Church, Utica, was honored with a special day October 3.



Walker

She was presented a plaque of recognition and certificate of appreciation for 25 years service to Baptists in Mississippi. She was also presented with cruise tickets and luggage. There was special music and dinner was served. Ben James is pastor.

The 118 years of Sidon Church, Sidon, will be celebrated November 7 at 10:30 a.m. A luncheon will be held at noon with music at 1 p.m. featuring The Kilgore Sisters. Sidon cannot continue to operate due to the decline in membership. All are invited.

COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College alumni from Wayne and Clarke counties are invited to an Alumni Fellowship Dutch Supper at Miss Kitty's Catfish House, Waynesboro, November 11 at 6:30 p.m. Events include a report of changes taking place on the Hattiesburg campus and information about the WCC Jubilee Celebration planned for Homecoming 2005 to be held in January. The college will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a co-educational institution with the name WCC. Alumni are encouraged to bring their families. For information and reservations, call (601) 318-6561 or (800) 962-5991, ext. 561.

Shiloh Church, Carroll Association, will host Promise in concert October 31 at 10:45 a.m. followed by lunch. Doug Warren is pastor.

North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, will hold Harvest Festival October 30 from 5-8 p.m. Children may wear costumes, but no scary ones. For more information, call (662) 237-6781 or (662) 237-9777. Jeff Myers is pastor. All are welcome.

Baxterville Church, Lumberton, will host Brittni Ward, Petal, in concert October 31 at 1:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Dinner will follow morning worship.



Big Level Church Noteburning, Wiggins

First Church, Newton, will present evangelist David Ring, I Have Cerebral Palsy-What's Your Problem?, November 15 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 683-2066.

Big Level Church, Wiggins, held a noteburning for retiring the loan on their new building recently. The ceremony was held exactly three years from the first worship service held in the building.

The GAs and RAs of Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, attended camp at Central Hills Baptist Assembly in June. Pictured are the attendants.

Central Church, McComb, held a deacon ordination October 3. Pictured (from left) are Tracey Hipps, pastor, Danny Harrell, Daniel Hart, Billy Madison, and Nic Mancuso.

Liberty Church, Liberty,



GAs and RAs of Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

ordained DeWitt Craft and Justin Dixon as deacons October 17.

First Church, Terry, recently ordained Clay Brister and Allen Ray Walker as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Walker, John Pace, pastor, and Brister.

Peach Creek Church, Panola Association held a deacon ordination October 10 for Mike Jenkins and Byron Legge. Bobby Caples is pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Macedonia Church, Lee County, elected John Shackelford as pastor October 10. Shackelford began his ministry October 24.



Allen Ray Walker, John Pace, pastor, and Clay Brister



Deacons of Central Church, McComb

Planned Giving

What if there were a way that you could further God's work in your hometown and throughout the world. What if that help could go even beyond your lifetime. Well it can with planned giving. Many of the blessings we enjoy today are the products of dedication from people in the past. They were committed to leave future generations a rich inheritance on which to build.

It isn't about having a lot of money. It is about a willing heart and thoughtful planning. There are many ways that we can do our part today to insure money will be available in the future to carry out God's work. With planned giving you can conserve your estate's assets for those you love, including your family and your church. Additional benefits are avoiding capital gains taxes, reducing your current income taxes, reducing federal estate taxes and increasing your current income.

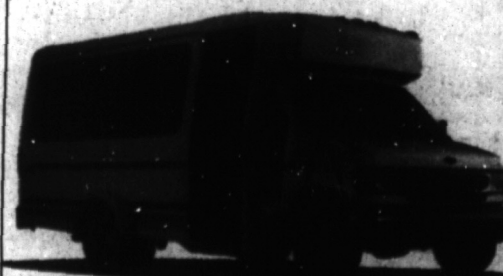
At the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, we provide information as well as church seminars on a wide range of programs and financial services. Our staff will help you make the best decision for you. Call us at (601) 292-3218.

MBF

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

LifeWay
BUS SALES

Buses are provided for LifeWay by
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.
Franklin, TN • Since 1953



25' to 45' Models, New & Used

Contact us today for friendly, helpful service

"Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer"

Black pastor slams homosexual comparison

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP and local reports) — The suffering of the homosexual does not compare with the suffering of the black man in America, Dwight McKissic recently told a chapel audience at Southwestern Seminary.

Referring to the case of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old black killed in Mississippi for whistling at a white woman in 1955, and the tragic history of the lynching of blacks in America, McKissic said, "No white lesbian has ever been

quoted in the news media are doubtful that prosecutions would be successful.

While expository preaching of the Bible is the norm for the seminary's chapel speakers, McKissic noted that, in the African-American community, pastors "are required to address current controversial issues, particularly if they interface with racial issues. You cannot be silent on these issues.... [T]o equate civil rights with gay rights is to compare my skin with their sin."

Saying that all such preaching must be based in the Word of God, McKissic said his sermon was intended to "model" for seminary students a topical sermon that addressed an important contemporary issue.

To that end, McKissic turned to the Apostle Paul's teaching on sin and homosexuality in Romans 1 in setting forth biblical authority to decry the equating of civil rights with gay rights.

"At the dawn of this new millennium, the church of the living God cannot allow the gay rights movement to hitch itself to the civil rights movement without putting up a fight," the pastor said. "We must not allow the gay rights movement to persuade this nation to approve of their sin under the banner of civil rights."

"To equate gay rights and civil rights is insulting, offensive and racist," McKissic said. "It is time for this generation to rise up and say, 'Not on my watch!'" Not on my Watch is the name of the coalition of African American pastors McKissic has brought together to advance the biblical definition of marriage and family, and to counter the move toward same-sex marriage in U.S. culture.

McKissic told the chapel audience that he could offer no guarantee that the battle against same-sex unions would be won, but he held up as an example the "courageous black soldiers" depicted in the movie, *Glory*.

"On the verge of a suicide battle and after an all-night prayer meeting," McKissic said, "[the soldiers] said, 'If we go down, we're going down standing up.' I've come here today to say that we are going to stand up for the Word of God, to stand up for our faith and to stand up for our families," McKissic said.

He contrasted the civil rights and gay rights movements. "Civil rights are rooted in moral authority. Gay rights are rooted in a lack of moral restraint."

He pointed out the intrinsic differences between racial and homosexual identities. "I've heard that homosexuals say that they discovered they were gay at 18 or 25 or 33 years of age. I don't know any black people who didn't discover their blackness until they were 25 years old.... I've met 'former homosexuals,' but I've never met a 'former black person,' other than perhaps Michael Jackson," McKissic said.

He also pointed out the slippery slope America will find itself on if homosexuality is accepted as an innate human characteristic. "If I could be a homosexual by nature," McKissic said by way of example, "I could also be a polygamist, adulterer, pedophile, or child molester by nature. Should we pass laws to approve of these behaviors?"

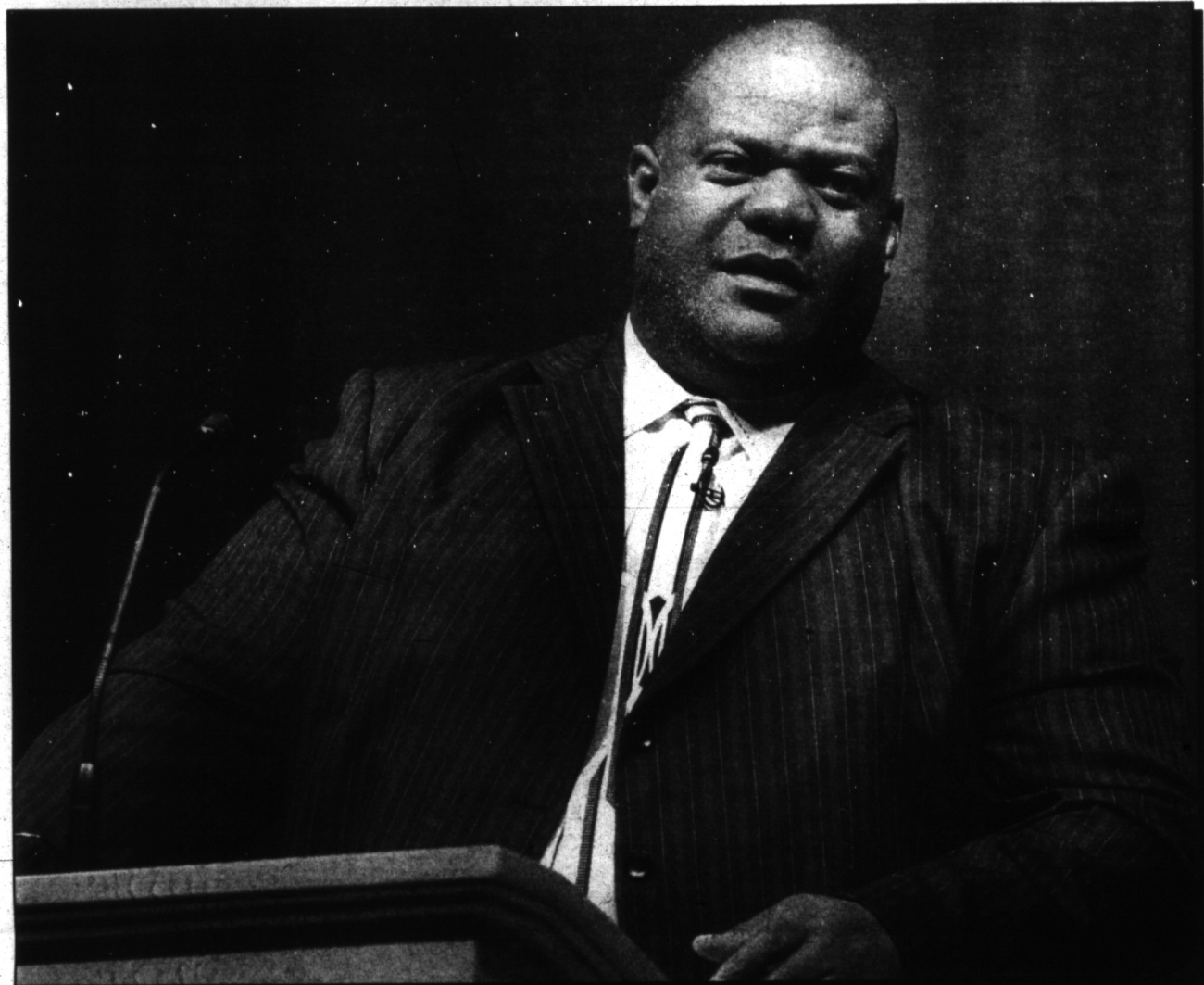
McKissic acknowledged the citizenship rights of gay people as Americans, but he said gays should not be given special privileges or special protection simply because of how they engage in sexual relations.

"When Christians open their Bibles, God opens His mouth," McKissic said in reference to Romans 1:32. He cautioned seminarians that the Bible not only enjoined homosexuality, it also issues a strong warning to Christians who condone such behavior.

"On the subject of homosexuality and same-sex marriages, God has spoken and He did not stutter.... God's Word not only disapproves of homosexuality. It disapproves of those who approve of homosexuality," McKissic said.

The consequence of this for Christians, he said, is that they must find out "where a politician stands on the subject of same-sex marriages and civil unions" before they vote for that person.

McKissic admonished his listeners to remember the two biblical cities that God destroyed by fire when the populace did not turn away from the sin of homosexuality. "We in America are on the brink of approving same-sex marriages, which would put us in the same category as Sodom and Gomorrah," McKissic said. "So I want to warn Americans today, in the words of the late Dr. E. V. Hill: 'God has another match!'"



McKissic

McKissic is senior pastor of Cornerstone Church in Arlington, Texas, and founder of the Not on My Watch coalition.

"When homosexuals have spent over 200 years in slavery, when homosexuals have been legally defined as three-fifths human, when homosexuals have been denied the right to vote and own property because they are homosexuals, then we can begin a discussion of parallels (between the civil rights and gay rights movements)," McKissic.

murdered for whistling at another white girl but black men have been murdered for even a perceived interest in white women."

A pair of white men were tried for murder in Till's death but were acquitted by an all-white jury. The men later told Life magazine that they had indeed been involved in Till's death, and both have since died. Federal and state authorities recently announced that they were re-investigating the Till case, but legal observers

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (662) 568-3482. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY is seeking a chief engineer to direct the seminary's HVAC program. Interested candidates should send a resume to operations department, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126. Candidates must be able to obtain the city of New Orleans stationary engineer certificates for first class boilers and air conditioning.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

FOR SALE: 1985 GMC BUS, 60 PASSENGER

GER diesel engine. First Baptist Church, 607 Fifth Street, Laurel, MS 39442, 601-649-5710. Ask for Jimmy Little.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, MISS. Christian owned home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal roofs, patio covers, screen/glass rooms. (601) 992-2092 or (800) 453-2994. Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

FBC CABOT, ARKANSAS IS SEEKING full-time Associate pastor for worship and music. Seminary, contemporary/traditional, technology, people skills, plus experience. Music search committee, PO Box 1023, Cabot, AR 72023. Visit www.fbccabot.org.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65/night. Call for information at (251) 666-2175, cell phone (251) 689-9982 or pdw@worldnet.att.net.

HEALTH INSURANCE TOO EXPENSIVE? Call toll-free today (877) 232-0686. We can Help! Major Medical Hospital & surgical plan. Doctors office visits, prescription drugs, life, dental, medicare supplement, low rates. Have current Health problems? We can Help! E. F. Hutton Insurance.

BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO, walk-in, smoke-free, no pets. Two bedroom, 2 bath, sleeps 6, washer/dryer. Scenic view, call (662) 746-6702. Please call after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

AMERICA'S FASTEST GROWING Christian long distance company. 3.9/minute, no monthly fees. No codes or restrictions, 6 second billing. 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free (866) 587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH PASTOR position. We are looking for a strong leader with a great

track record of growth to join the focused team of a 7,000 member church. Excellent package offered. Twelve (12) high schools within a 20 minute drive. For more information and to apply online please visit www.cascadehills.com/job.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH PASTOR position (grades 6-8). We are looking for a strong leader with a great track record of growth to join the focused team of a 7,000 member church. Excellent package offered. Seventeen (17) middle schools within a 30 minute drive. For more information and to apply online please visit www.cascadehills.com/job.

FOR SALE- 1981 ALLEN ORGAN, great condition. Dual pedal, with original papers, great church organ, 2 layer, 61 key per layer, \$10.5K. Call Tony at (251) 626-1379.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Desiring Deliverance

Mark 5: 1-13, 18-20

By Geneva England

Halloween is no time to joke about demon-possession. Many people—even followers of Christ—light-heartedly accept practices that bespeak of devil worship. The Bible consistently warns against reliance upon demonic spirits of any form. The Bible also informs us that we cannot withstand the forces of the devil without the strength of the Lord: our battle is not against "flesh and blood, but against ... the spiritual forces of evil" (Eph. 6:11-12, NIV).

This warfare is seen in Mark's coverage of the demon-possessed Gadarene [also Gerasenes]. Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-40 add further insight into the miraculous cleansing of this demon-possessed man, so strong that no chain could hold him and so possessed that no human would pass by the

tombs where he dwelled because of their great fear of him. When Jesus approached Legion [so named because of the many demons], he immediately reacted differently from his previous evil manner—he began worshipping Jesus (v. 6).

Obviously, the demons possessing the man recognized Jesus as the Christ, the Supreme Being over all creation. Interestingly, they asked Jesus, "Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matt. 8:29). Here we see the demonic world recognizing God's superiority and His power. This led them to beg Jesus to send them into a nearby herd of swine, which subsequently rushed down the slope of the Sea of Galilee and drowned.

This miracle teaches us several truths, the first being that demonic forces are real and do exist in this



England

present world. Furthermore, Satan beguiles many naïve people into dabbling with the occult. Indeed, many satanic activities today flourish in such forms as occult symbolism, horror movies, orgies, seances, Ouija boards, tarot card readers, zodiac guides, fortune telling, plus evil

practices—some dressed up as family entertainment, such as gambling—while others, such as sexual perversion, violence, drug abuse, etc., are presented as the FUN LIFE.

A second truth is that Christians have NO business in any activity associated with Satan. "Oh, I'll quit when I want to" or "My children will be the only ones not 'trick or treating'" are lame excuses for willfully sinning. Christians who do engage in these evils should not expect God to withhold punishing them when they do.

A third truth is that Christ has His own timetable for the present world, especially for Satan and his demonic forces. We read in the Bible that God will remove His children from this sinful world into Heaven and that

He will destroy all the evil forces of Satan, all in God's time. An even more sobering truth is that all who follow Satan—all who are wooed into his evil web—will be destroyed along with Satan in the cauldron of "eternal fire" (Jude 7). Don't be duped into thinking Halloween is innocent; its intent and terminology are straight from Hell.

A final truth is the unlimited grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ who alone can save us from Satan's schemes and protect us from Satan's attacks. Satan desires to destroy our Christian witness, but we must equip ourselves with "the whole armor of God" in order to "stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:10-17).

Only God can change evil hearts. The cleaned-up Gadarene man was different after Christ came into his heart. "Sitting clothed and in his right mind" (Mk. 5:15), he expressed his thankfulness by desiring to become one of Christ's disciples. Christ's answer was "no" to joining the disciples but "yes" to going home and telling his family how the Lord had shown mercy to him (v. 19).

Obviously, our salvation experience was not so dramatic as this demoniac's, but certainly our response to become Christ's disciple should be just as eager. Many think the mission fields exist only in faraway places among twenty-first century, demon-possessed heathens, where missionaries must spend years to establish trust in order to be an effective witness.

In contrast, most of us do not have this calling, but we should diligently share our faith with our families and friends. Even the great commission given in Acts 1:8 specifies for the apostles to begin "in Jerusalem," implying that their first duty was at home.

Many people are trapped in this demon-infested world. Accepting Christ's gift of salvation is their only escape. Our day-to-day victory comes by obedience to His commands, by trusting in Him for our daily living, and by spreading the gospel of deliverance to help fight these forces of evil.

Choose Hallelujah, not Halloween!

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

A New Lifestyle

Luke 9:19-27

By James Walters

Chances are good that if a secular crowd were asked to list ingredients necessary for living an ideal life that there would be some predictable responses. For instance, many would say wealth and the things money can buy would be an ideal quality to possess. Others would like to live to be a hundred years old, or longer. Still others would include a trouble free life with no stress, no anxiety. A trouble free, long life with plenty of money for necessities and some luxuries would just about do it for many people. Or would it?

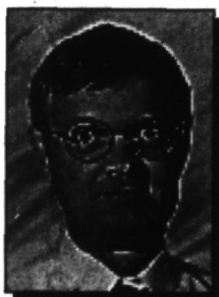
In relating this thought provoking wish-list to spiritual matters, consider Christ's life. He died at thirty-three which was not a very long life. Also, Pharisees and Sadducees hounded Him, and people hassled Him to such an extent that often He would simply slip away for privacy, or either send the crowds away. So much for a trou-

ble free life! And Jesus possessed nothing of value except a seamless robe someone had given to Him. The Roman soldiers gambled for the expensive garment at the foot of the cross. The robe was a gift not merely one single article of clothing from an Ives St. Laurent wardrobe.

The one person who truly lived an ideal human life was Christ. Whether we die young or die old, it is not how long we live that matters, but for what did we live? And it is not what we possess that matters most, but what possesses us. Additionally it is not how trouble free we are that matters, but whether or not we are troubled by the right things. Clearly the lifestyle of our Savior was vastly different from what typifies the average human being.

ACKNOWLEDGE WHO CHRIST IS, LUKE 9:18-22

Jesus asked His disciples what people were saying about Him.



Walters

They told Him that some thought He was John the Baptist risen from the dead. Others thought He was Elijah. Still others were convinced He was one of the Old Testament prophets risen from the dead. As mistaken as they were, these were all complimentary, flattering comparisons to say the least. The disciples did not say people thought He was a con artist, a fake, or a political reactionary. That perhaps would have been a devastating revelation to Christ. People had a high opinion of the Lord. Everything the disciples told Jesus people thought of Him would have made a lesser man puff up with pride.

"Whom do you say I am?" Jesus asked the twelve. Peter's response was the only one recorded in Luke. "You are the anointed of God," he said. Surprisingly Jesus told His disciples to tell no one. Soon, He told them, He would endure harsh physical suffering; be condemned by the Jewish religious authorities; be put to death, and raised from the dead on the third day.

Who Christ was beyond the grasp of His disciples even

though their opinion of Him was great. His present popularity would evaporate into a frightening future. How could such a respected, gifted, and godly man with such popular backing experience such a gloomy forecast?

EMBRACE THE LIFESTYLE OF CHRIST, LUKE 9:23-25

In Luke 9:7-9 Herod, the murderer of John the Baptist, heard of the miraculous works of Christ, and did not know what to make of it. He did, however, wish to see Christ, and learn more about Him. Herod serves as an example of many who talk about Jesus, discuss Jesus, wonder about Jesus, but never follow Jesus. The disciples represent those of us who are inspired to follow Christ. We take up our cross. We loose our life for His sake.

The lifestyle of our Lord was one of suffering, caring, evangelizing, and ministering. That is to be our lifestyle too. For the Herods among us and the false disciples, Church and Ministry may be just a form of entertainment and intellectual stimulation. They hold pep rallies on Sundays, and showcase their excellent talent, but do not worship. They enjoy Biblical discussions, but never have had a life

changing experience with God, and do not intend to do so. How far from the Lord's intentions for us people can drift!

ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHOICE, LUKE 9:26-27

When Christ comes many will wish they had made better choices. We all have wish bones, but what we need is back bones. We all need to stand firm in our faith, not simply wish that we could. The Latin word for "ashamed" in verse 26 means to turn red or to blush. Often someone who is embarrassed will blush. Far be it for a mature Christian to beat around the bush and "awe shucks" their beliefs about Christ their Redeemer. Who would take such a witness seriously? Not our lost neighbor!

The meaning of "ashamed" goes much deeper than this, however. If we feel disgraced or inferior to others; if we cannot live for Christ openly and speak of the Lord without reluctance Christ will react in kind on the Day of Judgment. He will not take that faith very seriously, and the day of reckoning is drawing near.

Walters is member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to computer virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permitted.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not acceptable. Photos should be submitted as a hard copy on a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk and a half inch floppy.

Articles that are not date sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to publish photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 1000, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news items is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to publish photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 1000, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Be on time for Sunday School!



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, October 31.

Turn clocks back one hour before going to bed on October 30.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2004

NYLFLSKFL RS NYRDL

LDLVI YTDPLF, SLLX YRV;

RS YL NYRFAN, PRGL YRV

XFRDW: SKF RD AK

XKRDY NYKT AYQBN

YLQM JKQBA KS SRFL KD

YRA YLQX.

FKVQDA NCLBGL: NCLDNI

Clue: P = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle:

Acts 11:16

Mayday for Marriage rally held Oct. 15

WASHINGTON (BP) — Pro-family leaders told tens of thousands of people on the National Mall Oct. 15 that the reason for the Mayday for Marriage rally was not to express animosity to homosexuals but to defend the union of a man and a woman as an institution.

"[W]e are not here for purposes of hate," Focus on the Family founder James Dobson told the crowd. "We are not here because we want to disparage the homosexual community or anybody else. This is being played in the media as an anti-gay rally. That is not true. We are here because we believe in the institution of marriage."

Rally organizer Ken Hutcherson said that reporters interviewing him have tried to make it into "an anti-gay rally."

"We don't believe in anti-anything," Hutcherson said. "We are here because we believe that God has ordained marriage between one man, one woman."

The three-hour rally, which continued even during a passing rain shower, came nearly a year after a court's decision brought about the eventual legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. In the ensuing months, public officials in other states moved to grant homosexuals the right to marry. Several rallies have been held across the country during the last six months to defend marriage and to build support for a federal constitutional amendment to protect the institution as only between a man and a woman.

On November 2, Mississippi voters will decide whether to amend the state constitution to provide legal protection for the traditional definition of marriage.

The Mayday for Marriage rally in Washington was the largest gathering yet in the movement. It came less than three weeks after the House of Representatives failed to achieve the two-thirds majority necessary for approval of an amendment and less than three weeks before the election. The amendment met defeat in the Senate in July.

Speakers urged perseverance in the cause. Prison Fellowship Chairman Charles Colson told the crowd, "This is not going to be a one-year or two-year or three-year fight; it's going to be fought until we prevail. Don't quit; don't get discouraged; don't despair. Despair is a sin because it denies the sovereignty of God."

"It's going to be a long fight," Colson said. "It doesn't turn on one election; it doesn't turn on one vote. It's got to be a gradual process of educating the American people."

Those at the rally have proven to public officials "that Christians will not lay down on this issue," Hutcherson told the crowd. "We will fight to the end. We want to give a message today that we as believers are standing, we have been awakened and we are never going back to sleep again."

Pastors should lead the way in the effort, said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "[I]t is the prophetic leadership of pastors in churches that puts calcium in the backbone of the churches and the people of faith across America," Land said. "This is the critical moment to stand in the gap as prophets and to call our people to be the salt and the light that God has called us to be. It is time to be salt and to stop the sexual paganization of America. It is time to be light to penetrate the darkness and to boldly proclaim what God's intention is for man and woman in the confines of holy matrimony as God designed it."

The United States is "at a critical fork in the road," Land said. "Make no mistake about it. If we allow same-sex marriage to be foisted upon us by an imperial judiciary in the United States, God will not bless this nation. That's what's at stake."

Land added that the controversial issue is about "whether or not we are going to practice societal child abuse on a whole generation of children or stand up for a safe, nurturing environment for our children. It's about the children."

Speakers emphasized the need to treat homosexuals with love and respect. "Many of the people in the homosexual community have been hurt," Dobson said. "They've been wounded. Some of their wounds have come from us. We have called them names. We have pushed them away."

"As Christians, it is our obligation to put our arms around them and pull them into the church. You cannot win people to Jesus Christ if you're being disrespectful to them, but on the other hand, there are some things that are right and some things that are wrong, and we must defend the value system in which we believe."

Gary Bauer, president of American Values and a former Republican presidential candidate, asserted that it is "not bigotry to know that marriage is between a man and a woman."

"It is not discrimination to know that our children need mothers and fathers," Bauer said, "and it is not intolerance to know that the love between you and your spouse is superior in every way to sex between two men."

Alan Chambers, executive director of Exodus International, a Christian outreach to homosexuals, told the crowd that followers of Christ "need to repent of our hostility toward homosexual people."

"They aren't our enemies," Chambers said. "They need to know that we love them. They need to know that God loves them."

Christians also need to repent "of being intimidated by the gay rights movement" and "of our own immorality," said Chambers, a former homosexual who appeared with his wife, Leslie, of nearly seven years at his side. "When the church is not following through with their marriage commitments, when we don't look as different from the world as we should, we need to repent of that."

Estimates of the crowd size ranged from 60,000 to a high of 210,000.

Moratorium proposed for same-sex ceremonies

LONDON (BP) — A much-anticipated report studying the rift over homosexuality within the Anglican Church calls for a moratorium on openly homosexual bishops and same-sex ceremonies but stops short of calling for the removal of Gene Robinson as an Episcopal Church bishop.

The Anglican Church's Windsor Report was released Oct. 18, more than a year after the Episcopal Church confirmed Robinson as the denomination's first openly homosexual bishop. The move has threatened to split the 70-million worldwide Anglican body -- of which the Episcopal Church is a member.

"By electing and confirming such a candidate in the face of the concerns expressed by the wider Communion, the Episcopal Church (USA) has caused deep offense to many faithful Anglican Christians both in its own church and in other parts of the Communion," the report, written by the 17-member Lambeth Commission, reads.

The 93-page report also criticizes the Diocese of New Westminster in Canada for allowing blessings of same-sex

couples. The report recommends:

- that the Episcopal Church "express its regret" that it harmed the worldwide body.

- that those who took part in the consecration of Robinson "consider ... whether they should withdraw themselves from representative functions in the Anglican Communion."

- that a moratorium be placed on bishops "living in a same gender union until some new consensus in the Anglican Communion emerges."

- that American and Canadian bishops who authorized the blessings of same-sex unions "express regret" that they harmed the worldwide body.

- that a moratorium be placed on same-sex union blessings.

- that a covenant be written expressing the beliefs of the worldwide body. The report includes a draft covenant.

The report received praise and criticism from conservative organizations — the American Communion Network (ACN) and the (AAC) American Anglican Council — which are working for reform within the Episcopal Church. The organizations issued a joint statement.

"We have strong concerns ...

about the fact that they call only for the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA) to 'express regret' and fail to recommend direct discipline of ECUSA," the statement read.

"... We see a critical need for a Core Covenant and applaud this recommendation by the Commission. In addition, we support the recommendation of a moratorium on the ordination and consecration of practicing homosexuals and the blessing of same sex unions as well as the invitation to those who participated in the consecration of V. Gene Robinson 'to withdraw themselves from representative functions in the Anglican Communion.'"

The report repeatedly calls for healing and reconciliation within the Anglican community. Conservatives, though, said that unity must not trump biblical truth.

"We understand and embrace the justifiable concern for the unity of the communion, and we treasure real unity," the ACN and AAC said in the statement. "We cannot in good conscience, however, support such unity at the expense of truth. We must not allow a desire to hold the church fami-

ly together to allow us to maintain the fatal disease that grips ECUSA and by association, the Anglican Communion."

Frank T. Griswold, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, said, "Given the emphasis of the Report on difficulties presented by our differing understandings of homosexuality, as Presiding Bishop I am obliged to affirm the presence and positive contribution of gay and lesbian persons to every aspect of the life of our church and in all orders of ministry. Other Provinces are also blessed by the lives and ministry of homosexual persons. I regret that there are places within our Communion where it is unsafe for them to speak out of the truth of who they are."

"The Report will be received and interpreted within the Provinces of the Communion in different ways, depending on our understanding of the nature and appropriate expression of sexuality. It is important to note here that in the Episcopal Church we are seeking to live the gospel in a society where homosexuality is openly discussed and increasingly acknowledged in all areas of our public life."